

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD - ORGANIZATION OF MARCH TDB AND UNCTAD IV

SUMMARY: INFORMAL MEETING CALLED FEB 23 BY UNCTAD SECRETARIAT TO DISCUSS ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR MARCH SPECIAL SESSION TDB AND UNCTAD IV. SECRETARIAT REPORTED ON ORGANIZATION OF CONTACT GROUPS FOR TDB, STATUS OF DOCUMENTS, ORDER OF SPEAKERS AT UNCTAD IV, OFFICERS FOR CONFERENCE AND SEATING ARRANGEMENTS. ADVISE IF US WANTS TO SPEAK EARLY IN CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. UNCTAD SECRETARIAT CALLED INFORMAL MEETING GENEVA-BASED DELS FEB 23 TO DISCUSS ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR MARCH SPECIAL SESSION TDB AND UNCTAD IV. SECRETARIAT DISTRIBUTED DRAFT NOTE TD/B/594/ADD.2 (COPY MAILED TO WASHINGTON - CLAY BLACK) ON TDB.

2. ORGANIZATION OF TDB: IN ORDER TO ENABLE SPECIAL SESSION TDB FULFILL ITS ROLE AS PRE-UNCTAD IV NEGOTIATING SESSION, SECRETARIAT PROPOSES TO ESTABLISH SECOND DAY OF SESSION PRESIDENT'S CONTACT GROUP AND TWO SUB-CONTACT GROUPS, EACH UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH NINETEEN MEMBERS. CONTACT GROUPS WOULD MEET

MARCH 9-17 AND DISCUSS ITEMS 2A THROUGH 2I AND 3E OF PROPOSED AGENDA (TD/B/594 OF 16 JAN). PRESIDENT'S CONTACT GROUP WILL HAVE TO DECIDE HOW TO DIVIDE WORK AMONG THE THREE GROUPS. SECRETARIAT WILL HAVE FACILITIES FOR THREE SIMULTANEOUS MEETINGS AT ONE TIME. PLENARY WOULD THEREFORE MEET MARCH 8 AND NOT AGAIN UNTIL MARCH 18.

3. GROUP D ASKED IN ONE DAY PLENARY WOULD ALLOW TIME FOR INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS. INDIAN REP (CHADHA) REPLIED THAT HE HOPED THESE WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY OR AT LEAST CAN BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM. PAKISTAN SUGGESTED AHT AT MOST ONLY GROUP STATEMENTS BE MADE.

4. CHADHA NOTED GROUP OF 77 DID ITS HOMEWORK AT MANILA AND CONSIDERS THAT MANILA DECLARATION REPRESENTS ITS PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION AT TDB. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED OTHER GROUPS WOULD HAVE AT TDB PROPOSALS AND REACTIONS TO MANILA DECLARATION.

5. AGENDA ITEMS 3A, B AND F WILL BE DISCUSSED AT FIRST PLENARY AND 3C, D AND G AT LATER SESSION.

6. ALGERIAN REP, SPEAKING ON BEHALF AFRICAN STATES, SAID THAT BECAUSE TDB PREPARATORY MEETING FOR UNCTAD IV, ALL MEMBERS OF UNCTAD SHOULD ATTEND AND ASKED HOW THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED. SECRETARIAT AND CHADHA ASSURED HIM THAT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RES 1995(XIX) AND RULES OF TDB PROVIDED THAT ALL NON-TDB UNCTAD MEMBERS COULD ATTEND TDB AS NON-VOTING PARTICIPANTS. SECRETARIAT ALSO NOTED THAT LETTER OF INVITATION TO TDB STRESSED THAT ALL UNCTAD MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND.

7. ORGANIZATION OF UNCTAD IV: FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF UNCTAD IV TO BE SENT TO GOVERNMENTS MARCH 1; NOTIFICATION OF PRE-CONFERENCE, MARCH 3 AND NOTIFICATION OF GENERAL DEBATE AND INVITATION TO GOVERNMENTS TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE, MARCH 5. SECRETARIAT NOTED THAT COUNTRIES WILL SPEAK IN GENERAL DEBATE IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF EXPRESSION OF DESIRE TO SPEAK AND SOME COUNTRIES SUBMITTED REQUEST AS EARLY AS DECEMBER. (IF US UNCLASSIFIED

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WISHES TO SPEAK EARLY IN GENERAL DEBATE, PLEASE ADVISE.)

8. DOCUMENTATION: SECRETARIAT INDICATED THAT FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS NOW IN PROCESS AND SHOULD BE OUT (IN ENGLISH) BEFORE TDB: TD/184 - COMMODITIES; TD/187 - MULTI-LATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS; AND TD/193 - TRADE AMONG COUNTRIES HAVING DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS. TD/186 - ECONOMIC OUTLOOK; TD-189 - INTERNATIONAL

MONETARY REFORM AND TD/194 - INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES
ARE NOT YET COMPLETED AND WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE
UNTIL SOMETIME DURING TDB. OF THE THIRTEEN SUPPORTING
PAPERS, THREE HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED, FOUR SHOULD
BE OUT BEFORE TDB AND REMAINING SIX WILL BE AVAILABLE
SOMETIME DURING TDB. TD/182 - ANNOTATED AGENDA WILL
BE RELEASED RIGHT AFTER TDB AND WILL REFLECT RESULTS OF TDB.

9. OFFICERS FOR CONFERENCE: THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS
MUST BE DECIDED UPON BEFORE CONFERENCE: RAPPORTEUR
FOR CONFERENCE, CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND RAPPORTEUR
FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE AND CHAIRMAN FOR NEGOTIATING
GROUPS. THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS NINE NEGOTIATING GROUPS
FOR THE NINE SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS, BUT THIS STILL
REMAINS TO BE DECIDED. CHADHA INDICATED THAT GROUP
OF 77 MAY PREFER SMALLER NUMBER BUT DID NOT SAY HOW
MANY. SECRETARIAT SUGGESTED THAT IN ORDER TO KEEP THE
BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE AT A MANAGEABLE SIZE, THE
VICE-CHAIRMEN OF THE CONFERENCE
SHOULD IDEALLY ALSO BE CHAIRMEN OF NEGOTIATING GROUPS.
HOWEVER, SEVERAL DELS INDICATED THAT THIS PROBABLY
NOT BEST SOLUTION SINCE VICE-CHAIRMEN OFTEN
PEOPLE WHO DO NOT STAY FOR FULL LENGTH OF CONFERENCE.

10. SEATING ARRANGEMENTS: STARTING WITH SAN MARINO,
WHICH WAS SELECTED IN A DRAWING BY LOTS TO OCCUPY FIRST
SEAT TO RIGHT OF CHAIRMAN, COUNTRIES WILL BE SEATED AT CONFERENCE
IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER ACCORDING TO ENGLISH SPELLING OF NAME
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